



**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE**

CINDY HYDE-SMITH
COMMISSIONER

PRESS RELEASE

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Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum Showcase Restored, Historic Carousel

Jackson, Miss. – Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Cindy Hyde-Smith, along with Danny Huston, owner of North American Midway Entertainment, held a ribbon cutting ceremony to showcase the newly restored, historic carousel at the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum on Lakeland Drive in Jackson, Mississippi, today.

Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Cindy Hyde-Smith stated, “We are very appreciative to North American Midway Entertainment for their support in making this restoration possible. The transformation of the carousel is amazing, and I can’t wait to see children enjoying it. I am so proud that the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum is home to one of only five carousels in the state recognized by the National Carousel Association.”

This classic American carousel, manufactured by the Allan-Herschell Company of North Tonawanda, New York, in 1928, has been located at the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum since 1988. Each horse, made of cast aluminum and built to accommodate small children, is unique with a different scene featured on the individual saddles. Solid brass poles rotate to give the appearance the horses are galloping. The carousel is outfitted with a custom canvas top, and the interior scenery has been repainted and retrofitted with 144 lights and 12 mirrors. The carousel also features two sleigh-style seats with new leather upholstery.

The restoration efforts were made possible by North American Midway Entertainment. Headquartered in Farmland, Indiana, North American Midway Entertainment has a regional office in Jackson, Mississippi. Most of the restoration efforts were completed by local, Mississippi craftsmen. “We are proud to be part of the Mississippi community. We have a deep commitment to the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum,” said Mike Severs, Director of Business of Development for North American Midway Entertainment.

In celebration of the carousel’s restoration, children will have the opportunity to ride the carousel at no charge with a paid admission to the Museum during the 2013 Mississippi State Fair which takes place October 2-13.

The Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Museum, which features the National Agricultural Aviation Museum, portrays the important role that the agriculture and forestry industries have played in Mississippi’s history and how these industries have shaped Mississippi’s economy through the years through both indoor and outdoor exhibits. The Museum, located at 1150 Lakeland Drive in Jackson, is open Monday through Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For more information about the Museum, call (601) 432-4500, visit www.msagmuseum.org, or visit the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum on Facebook.

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Photos and cutlines attached.



Ambassadors with the Greater Jackson Chamber Partnership joined those from North American Midway Entertainment and the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum for the ribbon cutting ceremony showcasing the newly restored, historic carousel. Those pictured include (fifth from left) Billy Fuller, North American Midway Entertainment; Robbie Bryant, North American Midway Entertainment; Danny Huston, Owner of North American Midway Entertainment; Mike Severs, North American Midway Entertainment; Cindy Hyde-Smith, Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce; and Lise Foy, Director of the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum.



A lucky few got the chance to be the first to ride the newly, renovated carousel. In celebration of the carousel's restoration, children will have the opportunity to ride the carousel at no charge with a paid admission to the Museum during the 2013 Mississippi State Fair which takes place October 2-13.